

Probiotic Therapy of Neonatal Meningitis and Method of Using *E. coli* Virulence Determinatns

Abstract of the Disclosure

Genes and proteins which modulate the virulence of meningitic *E. coli* bacteria, in particular neonatal meningitic strains of *E. coli* are provided. In particular, this inventions provides sequences for the *IbeA* gene cluster (GimA) and the proteins encoded by these genes. Compositions and diagnostic assays utilizing the sequences are also provided.